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From Moscow

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. OFFICIAL USE ONLY. The 15th UN General Assembly, and specifically Khrushchev's activities both within the UN and in New York generally, dominated Soviet press coverage of international events during the week. Khrushchev's comings and goings were reported in great detail, the press painting the by now conventional picture of the "tireless fighter for peace" as the center around which the events and other personalities at the General Assembly turned. Extensive press accounts of his balcony press conferences at his New York residence, and his later meeting with the press at the Soviet estate in Glen Cove portrayed Khrushchev as invariably getting the better of the exchanges with "capitalist" newsmen. A rather curious footnote to press coverage was the insistence that Khrushchev and the rest of the Soviet delegation were hard at work, as though it was considered desirable to allay any impressions that the Soviet leader's visit to New York was anything but business as usual.

As for the opening addresses by heads of government, the Soviet press practice was generally to print the text of speeches by bloc representatives and give summaries, usually misleading and tendentious, of other statements. A notable exception to this practice was the publication in Izvestiya (Sept. 23) of the text of President Eisenhower's speech. The main reason for publication was doubtless to "establish" the existence of freedom of information within the USSR. Publication of President Nkrumah's and Premier Castro's speeches (the former in complete text, the latter in very extensive summary) was equally clearly intended to serve the purpose of proving to the Soviet public that the uncommitted countries, especially the Africans, stood squarely behind the USSR in its attacks on Western "imperialism."

The general impression which the Soviet press sought to create was that the General Assembly had already become a major triumph of Soviet policy and for Khrushchev personally. (His alleged popularity with the US public was expressed in lengthy articles quoting friendly letters from Americans sent to "The address that all America knows.") The West continued to be portrayed as confused and irresolute, Western (and specifically the President's) proposals as characteristically vague and unappealing. While this propaganda line could be sustained with ease in the early stages of the General Assembly, difficulties similar to those presented by the results of the special GA on Congo might again be encountered as the Assembly moved to debate of concrete issues included in the agenda.

2. CONFIDENTIAL. Sino-Soviet Friction: In a public lecture on ideological questions Sept. 29, Doctor of Economic Sciences Debordin stated that the Chicombs were dogmatists who overestimated the strength of imperialism and underestimated the strength of socialist camp. During the question period someone asked what the consequences would be of Chicom deviation. Debordin replied that self-criticism and correction were possible but that the Chicom position definitely was a deviation.

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Although Soviet published material has identified dogmatists with arguments frequently made by Chicoms, this is the first time to our knowledge that a responsible Soviet has directly and publicly accused Peking of dogmatism and may foreshadow a still sharper stage in ideological struggle...

Chinese and Soviet speeches at friendship meeting held Hall of Columns Sept. 29 reported Soviet press the next day also reflected Sino-Soviet tension. Soviet speaker Yelutin dwelt at considerable length on Soviet assistance to China including specialists and seemed to go out of his way to find something positive to say about growth of Chicom economic power. The speech by Chicom Amb Liu Shao evidently did not mention Khrushchev's mission to New York although this is of course the dominant subject of interest here.

An indication that Sino-Soviet difficulties are becoming known to Moscow public was remarked by a servant of an Embassy officer who said that a medical doctor acquaintance recently assigned to China for three years suddenly returned after two months with his family together with many other Soviets from China.

3. Algiers: Algerian FLN leader, Ferhat Abbas, stopped over in Moscow for a three-day visit on his way to Peking. The delegation, which also included FLN "Min of Internal Affairs" ben Tobal and three lesser officials, was met and seen off at the airport by First Deputy Premier Kosygin.

Abbas' publicized visit follows on the heels of a recently announced extension of aid and a training agreement to the FLN by the Soviet trade unions (see WEEKA NO. 39).

4. CONFIDENTIAL. Germany-Berlin: In a week during which the Berlin situation was quite prominent in the West, the Soviet press failed to mention developments in the city. Adhering to an apparent policy of playing down the Berlin situation, the only report on or from Berlin to appear in Moscow this week was a brief item on Ulbricht's declaration to the East Berlin diplomatic corps.

The Soviet reply to the Allied note of Sept. 26 on travel restrictions implemented by the Soviet Zone regime was received this week. The Soviet note supported the GDR restrictions and called on the Western Allies to prevent future "revanchist and militarist provocations" in West Berlin and the alleged abuse of the air corridors in support thereof.

The UK note on the Fed Rep radio law (supposedly identical to the US and French notes) was not returned by the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The British Embassy here assumed that this is a result of the usage of "East German authorities" as opposed to "East Zone authorities" which was utilized in the US and French notes.

5. OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Laos: The Soviet press briefly reported the capture of San Nua by Pathet Lao forces and claimed that paratroops of Kong Le had landed in southern part Laos, forcing Phoumi to take refuge in Luang Prabang.

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Meanwhile, the Thai Ambassador in Moscow protested to the Foreign Ministry over Soviet charges concerning alleged Thai involvement in Laotian rebellion.

INTERNAL

6. OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Leadership: With F.R.KOZLOV, N.G.IGNATOV and P.M.POSPELOV on the Moscow scene to assist A.N.KOSYGIN, N.A.MUKHITDINOV and Ya.E.KALNBERZIN in protocol and other public functions, the past week has seemed much more normal in terms of leadership presence at the capital than its predecessor. There has been no substantiation of rumors early in the week that A.I.MIKOYAN, Koslov and M.A.SUSLOV, singly or in combinations, were in Peiping, nor has any announcement been made of the composition of a Soviet delegation to the CPR 11th anniversary celebrations. In this connection, it may be worth noting that there has been no accounting of D.S.POLYANSKIY's activity between his departure from Vladivostok on the morning of September 21 and his presence September 27 in Omsk where he addressed a party-economic "aktiv" conference (Pravda of Sept. 28).

7. OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Khrushchev "Cult": As indicated above (see paragraph 1), the form and volume of Soviet press and other coverage of N.S. KHRUSHCHEV's UNGA, Glen Cove and other current activities in effect have portrayed him as the single most outstanding world leader today and the hope of peace-loving mankind. Supposedly "representative" letters from admiring citizens from all parts of the Soviet Union are filled with expressions of patriotic pride in and appreciation for the activities of "dear Nikita Sergeyevich," and just about every Soviet meeting or conference seems to feel impelled to express its "ardent" approval and support for him.

Added to the ever growing list of "Khrushcheviana" is a new biographic-film "Always With the People." Produced by the Kiev Film Studio, it seems to be focused on that period of Khrushchev's life when he was active in the Ukraine, and will be one of the features of the coming Ukrainian festival in Moscow. The glowing review-announcement in Soviet Culture (September 27) includes four Khrushchev frames from the film and a poetic eulogy of the leader by Ukrainian poet A. MALYSHKO. Compared to this, the publishing by Ogoniok No. 38 of a full page color rendition of the Oboznenko-Serov painting of Khrushchev "During a Recess of the Congress," or the Izvestia September 29 "cartoon" showing him speaking (presumably before the UNGA) into a bank of microphones with the "Powerful Voice of the Millions" symbolized in the background seem a bit tame. There seems no doubt as to the feature role he will play in the 'time-capsule' book to commemorate September 27 as "Day of Peace No. 2", the subject of a very extensive Soviet press campaign to elicit popular individual and collective contributions on the theme of the state of USSR and the world on this September 27 as compared to "Peace Day" No. 1 twenty-five years ago, (at that time - on the initiative of Stalin's literary alter ego Maxim Gorky).

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8. OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Alleged Defection Program in Rome: Soviet sources charge that a Catholic organized and, by implication, U.S. backed campaign to encourage defection was directed against Eastern European athletes and tourists attending the Olympic games. (Trud, September 24 and Red Star, September 25.) The campaign reportedly was directed by the Vatican through the persons of "Cardinal Mikar" and Father Don Primo Cassini, who, it was suggested, is not really a priest, but was sent from West Germany to help in the campaign. Using Vatican "activists" from "Catholic Action" and the "Russikum", the campaigners distributed church and political propaganda and personally approached areas where athletes gathered to propagandize them on "the free world" and the "help" which could be given if they defected. For interested persons "open house" was set up in the "Fathers of the Stigmata" monastery. Father Cassino allegedly was an avid photo collector... "not of churches and monuments...but something else," and wanted such photos to be sent him from the Soviet Union.

In their "dirty" business the Catholics were supposedly aided by a branch of the "reactionary American organization Asen" headed by "Zakhorskiy" with headquarters at No. 70 Via Piemonte.

9. OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Tula and Kalinin Oblast Party Changes: In an organizational plenum September 27, the Tula Oblast Party Committee released its First Secretary, A.I. KHVOROSTUKHIN, in connection with his appointment as Soviet ambassador in Ulan Bator, promoting Second Secretary O.A. CHUKANOV to the top oblast Party position. The September 28 Pravda item did not indicate the presence of a central Party representative from Moscow, one of whom usually attend RSFSR oblast committee organizational plenums. Such a central representative, CC RSFSR Bureau Member and Chief of the Central Committee Section for RSFSR Party Organs M.T. YEFREMOV, participated in the Kalinin Oblast Party Committee plenum which replaced Obkom First Secretary V.A. KARLOV by Leningrad Oblast Party Committee Second Secretary N.G. KORYTKOV (Pravda of September 30). Karlov, released "in connection with transfer to other work," is the former deputy chief of the Central Committee Section of Agriculture for the RSFSR.

Korytkov's transfer to Kalinin from the Leningrad oblast party organization recalls the lot of his penultimate predecessor as Leningrad Obkom second secretary and former Leningrad City First Secretary N.N. RODIONOV who was sent to become Kazakh Second Secretary at the time of N.I. BELYAYEV's disgrace last January. Korytkov's promotion from Secretary to Second Secretary in Leningrad Oblast had been one of the shifts resulting from Rodionov's Kazakh assignment inasmuch as Korytkov's immediate predecessor G.I. POPOV had been elected to replace Rodionov as Leningrad City First Secretary.

10. OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Actions Against US Tourists: The press campaign warning Soviet citizens to be cautious in their relations with foreign tourists continues even though treatment given US tourists is generally not uncordial (Embassy Airgram G-109 of Sept. 24.) Komsomolskaya Pravda of September 27 describes a group of US student tourists "demonstrating remarkable zeal" by giving nightly street corner choral "concerts" to attract

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a crowd, then belligerently expounding on the "American paradise." The article states that each student demonstrated a good command of Russian which disappeared when he was cornered by a Soviet "who had an idea of conditions" in the US. It is intimated that the group had been carefully coached and their tour financed for them by an intelligence agency. Three of the five named had registered at the Embassy, but their alleged activities can not be verified. Their "sins" are an old story to anyone familiar with the history of U.S.-Soviet tourist relations this summer:

1. Giving away "souvenir" booklets;
2. Trying to take photographs of a building "unremarkable from the viewpoint of architecture which certainly was not to be photographed;"
3. No real desire to meet Soviet boys and girls;
4. A condescending cynical attitude which no amount of friendliness could drive away;
5. Publically eulogizing the "American Way of Life;" and
6. Ignoring Soviet culture while demonstrating their own (messing up bathrooms and "swilling").

In short the students are said to have done nearly everything except act as student-tourists should if they have a real interest in the USSR. The article asks the rhetorical question: "Why did they come?"

Yet a seventh sin, selling foreign goods, (in Soviet jargon: "speculation") is described in Vechernyaya Moskva (September 28). US tourist Allen Sommers (Alan Samers) is supposed to have sold things "made in USA" while in Moscow. He is not alone, for similar illegal acts reportedly involving an Austrian, an Englishman and a Belgian reminds one that although the black deeds of US tourists are mentioned most frequently, they are not the only foreigners considered culpable. The article calls for a public campaign against these "speculators with tourists' passports."

MILITARY (NAVY).

11. UNCLASSIFIED. Atomic Icebreaker LENIN: The Soviet press reported the successful completion, on 26 September, of a somewhat ignominious task by the vaunted LENIN - the conveying of some 40 small river craft, including lighters, tugs, tankers, cargo ships and a small passenger ship, from DIKSON, through the VILKITSKI STRAITS and the LAPTEV SEA, to the LENA RIVER BASIN. The LENIN was assisted by the new icebreaker MOSKVA, as well as the KRASIN, YERMAK, KAPITAN MELEKHOV, KAPITAN VORONIN and KAPITAN BELUCSOV. Ice conditions along the KARA and LAPTEV sea borders were reported to have been so heavy this year that even ocean-going craft could not transit without icebreaker assistance.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Robert I. Owen
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First Secretary of Embassy

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